

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide, wherein the consisting of an amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) — an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2; ;
 - (b) — an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;
 - (c) — an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and
 - (d) — a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.
- 2 (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide, wherein the comprising an amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) — an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2; ;
 - (b) — an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;
 - (c) — an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and
 - (d) — a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.

3. (currently amended) An isolated antibody that selectively binds to a polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2.

4-23. (canceled)

24. (new) An isolated antibody that selectively binds to a polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

25. (new) The antibody of claim 3, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

26. (new) The antibody of claim 24, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

27. (new) The antibody of claim 3, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

28. (new) The antibody of claim 24, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

29. (new) The antibody of claim 25, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

30. (new) The antibody of claim 26, wherein the antibody is coupled to a detectable substance.

31. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 24 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

34. (new) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. (new) An isolated antibody fragment that selectively binds to a polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the antibody fragment comprises a fragment selected from the group consisting of:

- a) an Fab fragment;
- b) an F(ab')₂ fragment; and
- c) an Fv fragment.

36. (new) An isolated antibody fragment that selectively binds to a polypeptide, wherein the amino acid sequence of said polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2, and wherein the antibody fragment comprises a fragment selected from the group consisting of:

- a) an Fab fragment;
- b) an F(ab')₂ fragment; and
- c) an Fv fragment.

37. (new) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

38. (new) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.